

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 904156	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/007960	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 16.06.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC			
<p>Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA</p>			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 			

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.
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Box No. I Basis of the report
<p>1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) <input type="checkbox"/> publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) <input type="checkbox"/> international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)</p> <p>2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (<i>replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed/furnished <input type="checkbox"/> the description: pages _____ as originally filed/furnished pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____ pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the claims: nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____ nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings: sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____ sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing. <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> </p>

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/007960

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents 1 to 3, indicated below, are cited in the international search report.

Document 1: JP 2003-139428 A

Document 2: JP 2002-139263 A

Document 3: JP 6-303755 A

Documents 1 and 2 disclose Stirling motors; to wit, document 1 (paragraph 1) specifically discloses a "free-piston type Stirling motor which comprises a displacement means and a power piston that is reciprocatably provided on the interior of a cylinder that has a working gas sealed therein."

In addition, document 3 discloses a linear motor; therein, the housing (20) thereof corresponds to the spacer in the invention that is set forth in the present application. Furthermore, ultrasonic welding is a well-known process that could have been employed in order to attach a member, as appropriate.

However, the feature of "providing a spacer whereby the first and second clamping members that sandwich the outer yoke are linked so as to maintain a prescribed interval therebetween, while also providing the first

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

clamping member with a spring-like supporting member that energizes the piston and attaching the second clamping member to the cylinder," which is one feature from the inventions that are set forth in claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 of the present application, is not disclosed or suggested in any of the documents.

Meanwhile, the inventions set forth in the present application exhibit an especially prominent effect whereby it is possible to decrease the variations in the interval between the first clamping member and the second clamping member as a result of employing the abovementioned feature.

Therefore, the inventions set forth in claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 of the present application are novel and involve an inventive step.

Furthermore, the feature of attaching the spacer to the first and second clamping members by means of ultrasonic welding is not disclosed or suggested in documents 1 to 3; therefore, the invention set forth in claims 4 and 5 of the present application is novel and involves an inventive step.

In addition, it is apparent that the inventions set forth in claims 1 to 8 of the present application exhibit industrial applicability.